

Appendix table 5-4.

Family characteristics of 6-to 12-year-olds and 15-to 18-year olds: 1972-97

Selected family characteristic	1972	1977	1982	1987	1992	1997
6-to 12-year-olds						
Mother's education level						
Less than high school diploma	34.3	29.5	23.6	20.4	18.0	15.8
High school diploma or GED	47.6	47.4	48.0	45.9	38.8	34.8
Some college	10.8	13.4	16.5	18.9	26.1	28.8
Bachelor's degree or higher	7.2	9.8	12.0	14.8	17.2	20.5
Percentage of young adults whose mothers were employed	38.5	45.5	52.1	58.1	61.2	66.4
Percentage of young adults whose fathers were employed	93.1	91.0	88.9	90.3	89.1	91.2
Family type						
Two-parent household	86.8	81.2	77.1	74.9	72.8	71.4
Father as head of household	1.0	1.2	1.8	2.4	3.0	4.2
Mother as head of household	12.3	17.6	21.1	22.7	24.1	24.4
Number of other children in household						
0 to 1	28.8	46.4	50.1	52.3	53.5	54.5
2 to 3	46.7	40.8	41.0	40.8	39.8	39.5
4 or more	24.4	12.8	8.9	7.0	6.7	6.1
15-to 18-year-olds						
Mother's education level						
Less than high school diploma	38.4	32.5	28.1	22.6	18.7	17.0
High school diploma or GED	44.5	46.5	47.0	46.6	40.2	37.1
Some college	10.0	11.9	14.4	17.8	25.3	26.9
Bachelor's degree or higher	7.1	9.1	10.6	12.9	15.7	19.1
Percentage of young adults whose mothers were employed	48.6	53.0	59.0	65.3	69.4	73.4
Percentage of young adults whose fathers were employed	91.8	88.6	86.7	88.7	88.2	89.3
Family type						
Two-parent household	84.3	80.1	75.7	73.6	72.5	71.2
Father as head of household	2.0	2.6	2.9	3.6	3.9	5.0
Mother as head of household	13.7	17.3	21.4	22.8	23.6	23.8
Number of other children in household						
0 to 1	39.8	45.6	50.9	59.8	61.9	62.6
2 to 3	39.4	38.6	39.1	34.1	32.1	31.9
4 or more	20.8	15.9	10.0	6.1	6.1	5.5

SOURCE: National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). 1999. *The Condition of Education, 1999*. NCES 1999-022. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Educational Research and Improvement.

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